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Environmental Assessment Office

2004/05
Annual Service Plan Report

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* *Refer to note on page 3.*

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Table of Contents

Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement 5

Highlights of the Year 7

Environmental Assessment Office Role and Services 9

Report on Performance 13

Report on Resources 22

Appendices 24

PLEASE NOTE: On June 16, 2005, the government ministries were re-organized to reflect the new cabinet responsibilities. Many of the website addresses and links in this printed report may have changed following the government re-organization.

- A list of the new ministries is available on the government website at http://www.gov.bc.ca — follow the links to Ministries and Organizations.
- An index of all 2004/05 Annual Service Plan Reports, with up-to-date website links, is available online at http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/annualreports/ .

Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement

I am pleased to present the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office's Annual Report for the period April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005. The report outlines the past year's achievements in assessing the impacts of major development proposals in British Columbia.

The Environmental Assessment Office plays an important role in British Columbia by delivering a thorough, timely and integrated environmental assessment process. It promotes the provincial goal of sustainability by protecting the environment and fostering a strong and vibrant economy.

Over the past year, the Environmental Assessment Office has seen significant progress in engaging business and industry in the review process. New provincial timelines for decision-making and enhanced federal/provincial cooperation are encouraging more proponents to take part in the process resulting in better projects and greater certainty.

The Environmental Assessment Office continues to engage with proponents to streamline the process, ensure appropriate opportunities for public consultation, and ensure that legal obligations to First Nations are met. The Environmental Assessment Office continues to place high priorities on ensuring reviews are harmonized when both the federal and provincial environmental assessment processes apply.

With an ever-expanding economy and the public's demand for environmental accountability, the work of the Environmental Assessment Office takes on even greater significance. I look forward to the future as we continue to improve the way that environmental assessment is done in this province.

The 2004/05 Environmental Assessment Office Annual Service Plan Report compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the Environmental Assessment Office's 2004 – 05 Service Plan. I am accountable for those results as reported.

George Abbott

Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Sustainable Resource Management
and Minister Responsible for the Environmental Assessment Office

June 8, 2005

Highlights of the Year

Overview

2004/05 was a year of significant achievement for the Environmental Assessment Office, as nine projects were certified under the environmental assessment process. What makes this commendable is the fact that the Environmental Assessment Office is currently handling more than three times the number of reviewable projects forecast from the Service Plan and budget in 2001. The list of certified projects includes the first two wind farms to be certified under the environmental assessment process in British Columbia. In certifying these projects and reviewing just over 30 others, we were able to balance the increased workload while meeting our financial and performance targets.

This past year, the Environmental Assessment Office continued to work with other government agencies, including the federal governing bodies, and our clients to improve upon the environmental assessment process. The Environmental Assessment Office worked diligently to identify process-related concerns and actively address client satisfaction. Clarification of our processes was one of the issues raised from the results of the 2004/05 Client Satisfaction Survey. In response, the Environmental Assessment Office developed "A Guide to Preparing Terms of Reference", which serves as a reference source for proponents and stakeholders.

In addition to the above accomplishments, a high level of public consultation and First Nations participation has been maintained.

Projects Under Review, Certified, Amended or Exempted from the Process

During the 2004/05 fiscal year, nine projects were certified (Appendix B) and forty-one projects were in the environmental assessment process (Appendices B,C, D). Also, five existing project approval certificates issued under the previous legislation were amended (Appendix E). Further information on the status of each project review, location of projects, and issues raised is available on the Environmental Assessment Office's electronic Project Information Centre (ePIC) on the internet at http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca *.

Under the recent legislation, the Environmental Assessment Office may determine that an environmental assessment certificate is not required for a project if the Office is satisfied that the project will not result in any significant adverse effects, when practical mitigation measures are taken into account. In the past year, it was determined that the Dunkley Lumber Mill Expansion would not require an environmental assessment certificate. When such a determination is made under the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act*, projects must still obtain all relevant permits and meet all regulatory requirements before they can proceed.

* *Refer to note on page 3.*

Intergovernmental

When a project is subject to both the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* as well as the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act*, the Environmental Assessment Office ensures that overlap and duplication for both processes is reduced to the greatest extent possible. In March 2004, the governments of Canada and British Columbia approved the Canada-British Columbia Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation (2004) to reduce overlap and duplication and to ensure that provincial timelines are considered in joint reviews. In 2004/05, ongoing communication between the federal and provincial bodies has aided in achieving our target of harmonizing the review process and achieving timely decisions.

First Nations

The Environmental Assessment Office continues to work with First Nations to support their participation in reviews and to ensure aboriginal issues are appropriately considered through meaningful consultation and accommodation where indicated. The Environmental Assessment Office has developed tools to assist proponents in addressing First Nations' interests, including a relationship building agreement template and a case study of joint ventures and benefit agreements. Proponents, as well as the federal and provincial governments, continue to work with First Nations on issues related to individual projects as well as larger economic and resource issues.

Environmental Assessment Office Role and Services

Vision

Sustainable economic development that reflects the social, cultural and environmental values of British Columbians.

Mission

Provide British Columbians with a well-designed and well-delivered environmental assessment process that reflects the government's objectives for economic growth, strong communities and sustainable resource management, based on maintaining high environmental standards.

Principles

The Environmental Assessment Office is guided by the following principles:

Neutrality — Neutrally and centrally administered process.

Fairness — Fair and open process.

Balance — Decisions are based on impartial, balanced and informed recommendations.

Science-based decision-making — Best available information, knowledge and technologies are considered and utilized.

Consultative — Participatory and transparent, ensuring meaningful opportunities for public, First Nations and local government input.

Inter-jurisdictional coordination — Streamlined process minimizing duplication and overlap.

Values

The Environmental Assessment Office is guided in its organizational behaviour by the following values:

- Cooperation and teamwork;
- Respect for the values and opinions of others;
- Continuous improvement to ensure quality service;
- A professional and high-performance culture, encouraging innovation and creativity;
- A healthy workplace supporting staff development, recognition, and opportunity; and
- Accountability to the people of British Columbia.

Overview, Core Business Areas and Structure

Overview and Core Business Areas

The Environmental Assessment Office leads reviews of proposed large-scale projects in British Columbia as required under the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act*. The current Act came into force in December 2002, replacing the former act which had been in place since 1995. The current Act provides greater flexibility and timeliness than the former act.

Environmental assessment is a process for identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating potentially significant adverse impacts of major projects. The process examines a broad range of possible effects — environmental, economic, social, health and heritage — and supports balanced decision-making. Issues or concerns identified by provincial, federal and local governments, First Nations and the public may trigger modifications or changes to a project as it moves through the environmental assessment process. In addition, proponents have specific accountabilities in the review process.

The core functions of the Environmental Assessment Office form the basis for fulfilling its mandated responsibilities. These core functions are delivered through two business areas:

(i) Core Business — Major Project Environmental Assessments

The Environmental Assessment Office oversees and manages the province's major project environmental review process to assess environmental, economic, social and other aspects of proposed projects in the following sectors: industrial, mining, energy, water management (dams, dykes, and reservoirs), waste disposal, food processing, transportation and tourism (destination resorts).

(ii) Corporate Operations

Many of the Environmental Assessment Office's corporate services are shared with the Ministries of Sustainable Resource Management and Water, Land and Air Protection. Corporate operations that are the responsibility of the Environmental Assessment Office includes service planning, budgeting, expenditure control, staff development, human resources, policy and legislation, records management, and management of the electronic Project Information Centre (ePIC) and website. Resources for corporate operations are included under the Environmental Assessment Office's "Core Business".

The Environmental Assessment Office experienced significant budget pressures in 2004/05 due to the increased volume of reviewable projects. On average, 26 of the 29 FTEs were utilized and $2,834,000 of the $2,897,000 of the operating budget was expended.

Structure

For every project that comes into the environmental assessment process, the Environmental Assessment Office assigns a "project lead" and "core project team" to work with the

proponent as they move through the various phases of review. This approach ensures that appropriate expertise is assigned to each project review. The "core team" approach also provides for a more efficient and flexible distribution of resources by allowing additional team members to be added or subtracted if and when required. All Environmental Assessment Office employees benefit from the developmental opportunities provided through project team work.

In addition to the project teams associated with each project, the Environmental Assessment Office has created sector leads to increase efficient and timely client access to sector-specific issues. For more information please refer to our website at http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca*, and search for project leads in ePIC or sector leads under the contacts section.

Operating Context

The number of reviewable projects has nearly tripled compared to levels expected when the Service Plan and budget were first developed in 2001. The reforms made to the *Environmental Assessment Act* which streamline the environmental assessment process are providing greater process efficiencies for the Environmental Assessment Office and other provincial agencies. These reforms are also ensuring that British Columbia maintains a fair and balanced process that is competitive with other jurisdictions.

In 2004/05, the Environmental Assessment Office looked internally at Enterprise-wide Risk Management practices in order to assess risks and determine mitigating steps. For more information on the proactive management of our risks, please refer to the performance measurement section.

One project, the Vancouver Island Transmission Reinforcement Project, opted into the process in 2004/05. Internal and external factors contributing to the number of new projects that entered the environmental assessment process last year include:

British Columbia Economy — British Columbia's total real GDP per capita grew by 3.9 per cent in 2004, leading all provinces in Canada, after growth of 2.5 per cent in 2003. Domestic activity continued to be the main driver of economic growth last year and business investment in the province grew by 11.7 per cent.

Energy Sector Development — A variety of government initiatives have created a number of market opportunities in the energy sector. Projects in the environmental assessment process proposed by Independent Power Producers in 2004/05 were: Toba Inlet Montrose Creek Project (hydroelectric power), South Meager Project (geothermal power), Upper Harrison Project (hydroelectric power) Nahwitti Wind Farm Project (wind power), Knob Hill Wind Farm Project (wind power) and Holberg Wind Energy Project (wind power). Another energy project that entered the environmental assessment process last year was a liquid natural gas project located in Kitimat.

Mining Sector Development — Increasing metal and coal prices have resulted in increased investment in mining in the province. In 2004/05 there were a number of mining projects

* *Refer to note on page 3.*

active in the environmental assessment process and a number expressing interest in entering the process. Those projects that were active included: Wolverine Coal, Cariboo Gold Mine, Orca Sand and Gravel, Red Chris Porphyry Copper-Gold Mine, Bear River Gravel Project, Brule Mine Project, Cogburn Magnesium, Galore Creek Gold/Silver/Copper Mine, Kemess North Copper Gold Mine, Morrison Copper Gold Mine, and Mount Klappan Coal Project.

Provincial Infrastructure Development — A number of major projects have been submitted for review in the last two years. The Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre; the Sea to Sky Highway Upgrade and the New Fraser River Crossing were certified in the year 2004/05. Still in various stages of review are the rapid transit link between downtown Vancouver and the airport, the expansion of Deltaport Berth Terminal, and the South Fraser Perimeter Road.

First Nations — The Environmental Assessment Office continues to work with First Nations to facilitate their participation in reviews and to ensure that potential impacts on First Nation's asserted aboriginal rights and title are identified and addressed through meaningful consultation and accommodation (where indicated) in accordance with applicable policy and case law requirements.

2010 Olympics — In 2003, British Columbia was awarded the right to stage the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. In 2004/05 the Environmental Assessment Office led a harmonized federal/provincial review of the Whistler Nordic Centre.

Federal Government's Role — As a result of the Canada-British Columbia Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation (2004), there has been ongoing communication to facilitate agreement on project-specific timelines, the introduction of more effective management of federal participation, and the harmonization of federal/provincial reviews.

Risks to EAO — The above factors represent risks and opportunities to the EAO in managing project reviews to meet legislative timelines. The EAO is proactive in anticipating and scheduling activities to manage all projects within timelines.

New Era Commitments

While no *New Era* commitments refer specifically to environmental assessment, or the Environmental Assessment Office, the environmental assessment process contributes to the achievement of government commitments. The goals, objectives, and strategies of the Environmental Assessment Office reflect government's commitment to operate in an innovative, results-oriented, and accountable manner.

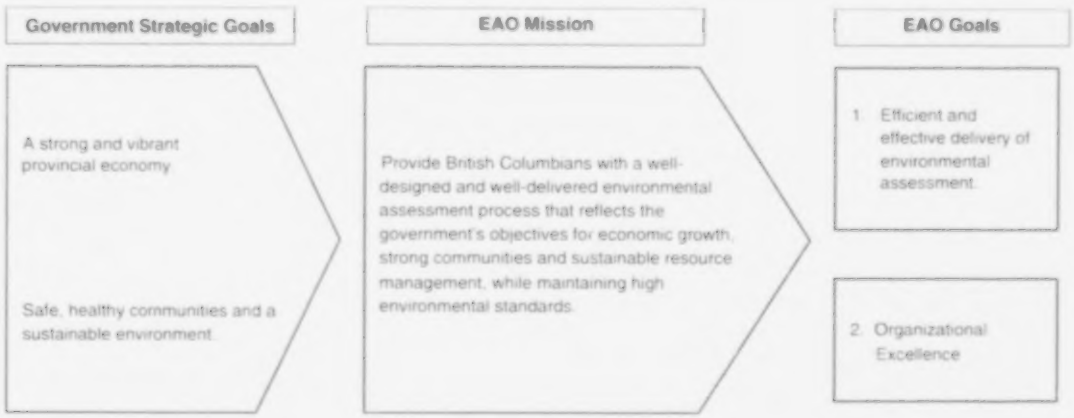
Report on Performance

Overview of Goals and Linkage to Government Strategic Goals

The *Environmental Assessment Office Service Plan 2004/05 to 2006/07* supports the Government of British Columbia's long-term goals of:

- a strong and vibrant provincial economy; and
- safe, healthy communities and a sustainable environment.

Linking Government Goals to Environmental Assessment Office Goals



Report on Results

This section presents the Environmental Assessment Office's goals and outlines how specific objectives, strategies, performance measures and targets are helping to achieve these goals.

Synopsis of Environmental Assessment Office Results

Goals	Key Objectives	Performance Measures	Results
1. Efficient and Effective Delivery of Environmental Assessment.	1. Continual Improvement of Provincial Environmental Assessment.	Success meeting timelines.	✓✓
		Proponents' level of Satisfaction with the review process: — EA review is focused on key issues — Mitigation measures canvassed and applied — EA Report to the Minister is fair and balanced	✓
		Average annual EAO costs per project for environmental assessment.	✓
		Deregulation: reducing unnecessary red tape and regulation.	✓
		Enterprise-wide Risk Management applied to EAO project management	✓
	2. Enhance federal/provincial cooperation to increase timeliness and certainty, and minimize overlap and duplication.	Per cent of harmonized reviews that meet provincial timelines.	✓✓
2. Organizational Excellence.	1. Support organizational development to optimize ability to deliver environmental assessment.	Internal Policies and procedures are relevant and consistent with new environmental assessment direction.	✓
		Per cent of staff with Employee Performance and Development Plans (EPDP) in place. Plans are reviewed and updated annually.	✓
	2. Communicate effectively with all stakeholders.	Timely posting of public and agency comments on the EAO's Project Information Centre (ePIC).	✓

✓✓ Exceeded Target. ✓ Achieved Target. △ Target mostly achieved x Missed target.

Goal 1: Efficient and Effective Delivery of Environmental Assessment

This goal was to be met through two objectives — continual improvement of provincial environmental assessment and greater procedural certainty when both the provincial and federal review processes are triggered.

Objective 1: Continual Improvement of Provincial Environmental Assessment

Continuous improvement in our process has allowed streamlining and flexibility to be incorporated into the environmental assessment process. Most recently, reforms to the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act* have streamlined and improved the process

by making it less prescriptive and more flexible. The strategies set out below were aimed to address areas of the process to focus improvements this past year.

Key Strategies

1. Delivery of a timely and cost-efficient provincial environmental assessment process.
2. Evaluation of the environmental assessment process through client satisfaction surveys, and refine based on implementation experience.
3. Alignment of environmental assessment and permitting/licensing.
4. Fulfillment of government's legal obligations towards First Nations.
5. Apply Enterprise-wide Risk Management (ERM) to Environmental Assessment Office key strategies by implementing ERM program activities.

Performance Measures and Results

Performance Measures	2004/05 Target	2004/05 Actual	Achievement	2003/04 Actual
Duration of government application reviews	90% of application reviews completed in 180 days.	100%	Exceeded target by 10%.	75% of application reviews completed in 180 days.
Proponents level of satisfaction with the review process	Continual process improvement based on feedback from proponents and identification of key issues.	The EAO: — sought proponent comments and responded appropriately (for example: developed the terms of reference guide for proponents; began work on a proponent tool kit; trained staff on running effective meetings) — committed to continue the proponent feedback survey	Target met.	N/A[1]

Performance Measures	2004/05 Target	2004/05 Actual	Achievement	2003/04 Actual
Average annual EAO costs per project for environmental assessment	Maintain or reduce the 2003/04 baseline of $106,000.	The average annual project cost was maintained at the baseline level.[2]	Target met.	$106,000
Deregulation: reducing unnecessary red tape and regulation	Maintain or reduce regulatory requirements of provincial environmental assessment.	There was no net increase in the regulatory requirements.	Target maintained.	56% reduction in regulatory requirement.
Stage of ERM implementation	Formal risk management assessment applied to key EAO strategies.	ERM was applied to: — legislated 180 day timelines — workload capacity of staff — identification and management of policy gaps.	Target met.[3]	N/A[1]

[1] Not applicable because the performance measure changed in 2004/05.

[2] The Average annual cost of environmental assessment has been determined to not be an accurate measure due to its sensitivity to the project workload. This performance measure has been dropped as a formal measure for the 2005-06 Service Plan.

[3] The ERM has been dropped as a formal measure for the 2005-06 Service Plan as it is now integrated into office procedures.

One key objective of our environmental assessment process is timeliness and process certainty. The British Columbia process has legislated timelines and the Environmental Assessment Office monitors whether these timelines are being met. The Office has developed a "dash board" tracking system that monitors major milestones and targets for each project review. These milestones and target dates have been incorporated into our performance indicators through the above performance measurements. Using this monitoring system, the Environmental Assessment Office applies formal risk management practices proactively in anticipating and scheduling activities and encouraging cross-team efforts to manage all projects within legislated timelines.

Another important part of ensuring client satisfaction and timeliness in our processes is the use of concurrent permitting decisions, which are made within 60 days of a certificate being issued to a proponent. Concurrent permitting decisions were made within 60 days in all of the projects that requested concurrent permitting decisions in 2004/05.

The Environmental Assessment Office has built upon comments provided by its clients and will use them to better aid future proponents in understanding the environmental

assessment process. Our objective is to strive for continuous improvement in the environmental assessment process through the use of the Client Satisfaction Survey.

The Environmental Assessment Office works with First Nations to facilitate their involvement in project reviews to ensure the potential impacts on First Nations' asserted aboriginal rights and title are identified and addressed through meaningful consultation and accommodation (where indicated) in accordance with applicable policy and law requirements. First Nations are invited to comment on key documents from the Environmental Assessment Office and proponents and are invited to participate in technical working group meetings to discuss and resolve issues. First Nations are provided an opportunity to participate early in the process with funding provided by the Environmental Assessment Office.

The Environmental Assessment Office recognizes that there are risks associated with meeting our legislated timelines. This risk has a low likelihood of occurrence, and may be due to unforeseen external events. This risk is managed through our internal operating procedures.

Objective 2: Enhance federal/provincial cooperation to increase timeliness and certainty, and minimize overlap and duplication

When a project is subject to both the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* as well as the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act*, the Environmental Assessment Office works closely with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency) and other federal agencies to ensure the requirements of both levels of government are met through a harmonized process. The Canada-British Columbia Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation was implemented to reduce overlap and duplication and to ensure that provincial timelines are considered in joint reviews. Work plans, agreed to by the Environmental Assessment Office and CEA Agency, are developed for each project requiring a harmonized review. They set out the project-specific procedures for completing a harmonized review, which includes scope of project, scope of assessment and project review schedule.

Key Strategies

1. Early consultation with CEA Agency and federal agencies and proponents on projects entering the process.
2. Development of and implementation of operational procedures for work plans to facilitate federal/provincial harmonization.
3. Utilize the CEA Agency/EAO Harmonization working group to address federal/provincial coordination issues.

Performance Measures and Results

Performance Measure	2004/05 Target	2004/05 Actual	Achievement	2003/04 Actual
Percent of harmonized reviews that meet provincial timelines	80% of all harmonized reviews meet provincial timelines.	100% harmonized reviews met provincial timelines.	Exceeded target by 20%.	N/A[1]

[1] Not applicable because the performance measure changed in 2004/05.

For the year 2004/05, six of the 10 projects referred to Ministers for decision under the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act* were also subject to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. The Environmental Assessment Office managed these harmonized reviews on behalf of both governments within provincial timelines. The harmonized review process for all of these project included early consultations and federal/provincial workplans.

The CEA Agency/EAO harmonization working group met twice in 2004/05 and successfully addressed issues surrounding timelines of joint reviewable projects.

Goal 2: Organizational Excellence

This goal is achieved by ensuring that the Environmental Assessment Office supports organizational development to optimize its ability to provide efficient and effective delivery of environmental assessment. It also entails ensuring effective and efficient communication with all parties involved in environmental assessments.

Objective 1: Support organizational development to optimize ability to deliver environmental assessment

This objective focuses on creating a healthy, performance-focused environment with proactive leadership and continuous improvement.

Key Strategies

1. Evaluation of existing Environmental Assessment Office policies to identify gaps and redundancies.
2. Update the Human Resource Management Plan that includes strategies for staff training, development, recognition and succession.
3. Managers to review Employee Performance and Development Plans (EPDP) annually with each of their staff members.
4. Provide staff with information and access to development, training and learning opportunities.

5. Provide Environmental Assessment Office employees with trainings (workshops) and tools (tool kit, information, and agreement templates) to effectively carry out the government's legal obligations to First Nations and to provide effective advice to proponents on building and maintaining positive relationships with First Nations.

Performance Measures and Results

Performance Measures	2004/05 Target	2004/05 Actual	Achievement	2003/04 Actual
Internal policies and procedures are relevant and consistent with new environmental assessment direction	100% of identified gaps and redundancies addressed.	16 gaps were identified and addressed in the fiscal year.	Target met.	N/A[1]
Percent of staff with Employee Performance and Development Plans (EPDP) in place. Plans are reviewed and updated annually	100% EPDPs updated.	100%	Target met.	100%

[1] Not applicable because the performance measure changed in 2004/05.

The updated Human Resource Management and Information Resource Management Plans were finalized and made available through the website in February 2005. These documents, as well as the continuous access to staff training and development, have helped fulfill requirements for staff EPDPs. Supporting the needs of staff through increased access to training opportunities has also enhanced our ability to ensure client satisfaction and meet our legislated timelines through an improved environmental assessment process.

Gaps in internal policies and procedures were identified through a risk management workshop involving all staff at the Environmental Assessment Office. The Environmental Assessment Office has recognized that there was a risk in not addressing the gaps in our policies and procedures, and by attending to the gaps we will improve the environmental assessment process. The policy and procedures gaps were identified and then ranked based on several criteria including: client service; increased efficiency and relevancy to the new *Environmental Assessment Act*. After evaluation, the Environmental Assessment Office was left with sixteen high/medium priority action items to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. A few examples of the policy and procedures gaps that were addressed include: a policy for handling late public comments, polices surrounding the posting of documents to ePIC, and several guidelines to aid in a consistent approach to the assessment process. By meeting our target, the Environmental Assessment Office is improving its ability to provide efficient, effective and consistent delivery of environmental assessments.

Objective 2: Communicate effectively with all stakeholders

The *Environmental Assessment Act* establishes an electronic Project Information Centre to facilitate access to general information about the environmental assessment process, as well as specific information on individual project assessments. The principal means of accessing the Project Information Centre is through the Environmental Assessment Office website. The Public Consultation Policy Regulation identifies documentation related to each project environmental assessment that is normally made available to the public through the website. Information on the electronic Project Information Centre is updated on an ongoing basis. The Environmental Assessment Office is committed to improving the access and ease of use of the website since this is the primary mechanism for access to information.

Key Strategies

1. Facilitate access to information about project reviews and the environmental assessment process.
2. Improve web-based access to key review documents.
3. Facilitate the exchange of information with multi-stakeholder groups such as the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee, to provide advice and feedback on environmental assessment issues.

Performance Measures and Results

Performance Measure	2004/05 Target	2004/05 Actual	Achievement	2003/04 Actual
Timely posting of public and agency comments on the EAO's project information centre (ePIC)	All project documentation required by regulation will be posted on ePIC. 90% of all project documentation will be posted on ePIC within 7 days of receipt by EAO.	For the majority of projects EAO exceeded the target. Some projects came in at 90%. No projects fell short of the target.	Target met.	N/A[1]

[1] Not applicable because the performance measure changed in 2004/05.

The Environmental Assessment Office attempts to communicate effectively through the use of their website, and in particular the Environmental Assessment Office encourages access to documents through electronic Project Information Centre. During the year 2004/05, a total of 1,628 documents were posted on the electronic Project Information Centre, and we successfully met our timelines for their posting.

Deregulation

The Government of British Columbia has met and exceeded its target for reducing red tape for the three year period ending June 2004. In 2002/03 the Environmental Assessment Office reduced regulations by 56 per cent from the previous year which more than exceeded the Environmental Assessment Office's target of 33 per cent. In 2004/05 our regulations were re-counted and a baseline was set from which there was no net increase in regulations. The Environmental Assessment Office remains committed to maintaining or reducing the level of regulation.

Report on Resources

The past year the Environmental Assessment Office experienced budget pressure from a significant increase in the volume of reviewable projects. Internal and external recoveries associated with project reviews helped ensure the Environmental Assessment Office met its operating expenses. To be consistent with the change introduced in public accounts, the variance column has been changed this year. Variance is now calculated as "Actual" minus "Total Estimated". If the "Actual" is greater, then the variance will be displayed as a positive number.

2004/05 Resource Summary

Core Business Areas	Estimated	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance (Actual Minus Total Estimated)
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Major Project Environmental Assessments	2,897	0	2,897	2,834	(63)
Corporate Operations[1]	Rolled into core business item 1				
Total	**2,897**	**0**	**2,897**	**2,834**	**(63)**
Full-time Equivalents (Direct FTEs)					
FTEs	29	0	29	26	(3)
Total	**29**	**0**	**29**	**26**	**(3)**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)					
Corporate Operations	70	0	70	51	(19)
Total	**70**	**0**	**70**	**51**	**(19)**

[1] The Environmental Assessment Office has one main core function. To increase process efficiency, corporate operations was rolled into the major project environmental assessment core business area.

Explanations and Comments

Operating Expenditures

In addition to its base budget allocation of $2.897 million, the Environmental Assessment Office received $570,000 from other government and outside-government sources in order to cover costs associated with several large infrastructure projects that were under review in the fiscal year 2004-2005. The EAO managed its work load within this combined budget, leaving approximately two per cent unspent. During 2004/05 the Environmental Assessment

Office experienced some delays in filling vacated positions and consequently operated below its FTE allotment for the year. The Environmental Assessment Office was actively recruiting to fill its vacant positions by the end of the fiscal year.

Capital Expenditures

Improvements to the electronic Project Information Centre operating system were deferred to future years in order to modify the system based on user feedback.

Appendices

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms and Acronyms Used

EA	Environmental Assessment
EAO	Environmental Assessment Office
EPDP	Employee Performance Development Plans
ePIC	electronic Project Information Centre (ePIC is available at http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca *)
ERM	Enterprise-wide Risk Management
FTE	Full-time equivalent
IPP	Independent Power Producer
N/A	Not Available
TOR	Terms of Reference

* *Refer to note on page 3.*

Appendix B: Certified Projects from April 1, 2004 – March 31, 2005

The table below details the projects that were issued an Environmental Assessment Certificate by the Minister during the fiscal year 2004/05.

Project (proponent)	Location	Investment ($million)	Jobs (operating)	Date Certified
Kamloops Groundwater (City of Kamloops)	Kamloops	5	0	April 13, 2004
Sea-To-Sky Highway Upgrade (Ministry of Transportation)	West Vancouver to Whistler	600	0	June 4, 2004
Vancouver Convention Centre (EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd.)	Lower Mainland	565	800	July 28, 2004
New Fraser River Crossing (Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority)	Bridge across the Fraser River from Maple Ridge to Langley	600	53	August 6, 2004
Knob Hill Wind Farm (Sea Breeze Energy Inc.)	Northern Vancouver Island (near Holberg)	700	45	September 21, 2004
Jumbo Glacier Resort (Glacier Resorts Ltd.)	Jumbo Creek Valley, 55 km West of Invermere	450	800	October 12, 2004
Cranbrook Deep Wells (City of Cranbrook)	City of Cranbrook	1	0	October 15, 2004
Holberg Wind Energy (Holberg Wind Energy GP Inc.)	Mount Brandes near Holberg, North Vancouver Island	120	6	October 22, 2004
Wolverine Coal (Western Canadian Coal Corp.)	Northwest of Tumbler Ridge	116	220	January 13, 2005

Appendix C: Projects in the Review Process from April 1, 2004 – March 31, 2005

The table below outlines the twelve projects under review in the 180-day period during the fiscal year 2004/05.

Project (proponent)	Description of Project	Location	Investment ($million)	Jobs (operating)	Status of Review
Energy					
Cascade Heritage Power (Powerhouse Developments Inc.)	Construction of a hydroelectric power generating facility and associated historic park and museum.	Near Christina Lake	24	3	Awaiting supplementary information from proponent.
Kwoiek Creek Hydroelectric (Kwoiek Creek Resources Inc.)	Construction of a 80 MW hydroelectric project and supporting infrastructure.	Fraser Canyon, 22 km South of Lytton	90	6	Awaiting supplementary information from proponent.
Revelstoke Unit 5 Generation Project (BC Hydro and Power Authority)	Construction and operation of a fifth generating unit at the Revelstoke Generating Station.	Columbia River at Revelstoke	N/A*	N/A	Review suspended at proponent's request in December 1995.

Project (proponent)	Description of Project	Location	Investment ($million)	Jobs (operating)	Status of Review
Mining					
Cariboo Gold Mine (International Wayside Gold Mines Ltd.)	Construction of an open-pit gold mine and associated infrastructure.	Adjacent to Wells	60	50	Timeline extension issued.
Orca Sand and Gravel (Polaris Minerals)	Sand and gravel project with a maximum production capacity of 6,000,000 tonnes.	4 km West of Port McNeil	60	50	EAO received Application for review on January 17, 2005.
Red Chris Porphyry Copper-Gold Mine (Red Chris Development Company Ltd.)	Open pit copper-gold mine with mill processing 25,000 tonnes of ore per day.	18 km Southeast of Iskut	150	200	EAO received Application for review on November 21, 2004.
Tourist Destination Resorts					
Whistler Nordic Centre (Vancouver 2010)	Nordic Center for 2010 Winter Games.	Callaghan Valley	100	53	Referred to Ministers for decision on February 21, 2005.
Garibaldi at Squamish Mountain Resort Development (Garibaldi at Squamish Inc.)	Development of an all-seasons mountain resort destination.	13 km North of Squamish	238	620	Application for timeline Extension under review.

Project (proponent)	Description of Project	Location	Investment ($million)	Jobs (operating)	Status of Review
Transportation					
Richmond/Airport/ Vancouver Rapid Transit (RAV Project Management Ltd.)	Construction of an electric rail-based rapid transit connection line.	Line runs through Vancouver, Sea Island, the airport and Richmond.	1,720	N/A	EAO received Application for review on December 10, 2004.
Deltaport Third Berth (Vancouver Port Authority)	Expansion of existing port terminal.	Lower Mainland — Roberts Bank	272	360	EAO received Application for review on February 14, 2005.
Waste Disposal					
Ashcroft Ranch Landfill Project (Greater Vancouver Regional District)	A proposed solid waste landfill with a 100-year lifespan.	Ashcroft Ranch — Near Ashcroft	15	100	Referred to Ministers for decision on February 2, 2005. Minister extended EA decision period to 68 days on March 31, 2005.
Water Management					
Chemainus Wells Water Supply Project (District of North Cowichan)	The project includes three groundwater wells, approximately 4000 metres of water main, and a new 4.54 million litre concrete reservoir.	Chemainus	3.62	0	Awaiting supplementary information from proponent.

Appendix D: Projects in the Pre-application Stage from April 1, 2004 – March 31, 2005

The table below outlines the twenty projects involved in pre-application during the fiscal year 2004/05.

Project (proponent)	Description of Project	Location	Investment ($million)	Jobs (operating)
Energy				
Kitimat LNG (Kitimat LNG Inc.)	Construction of a liquid natural gas (LNG) terminal.	14 km South of Kitimat	300	50
Nahwitti Wind Power Project (Nomis Power Corp.)	New wind farm, operating 25 wind turbines.	50 km Northwest of Port Hardy	N/A	7
Nai Kun Wind Farm (Nai Kun Wind Development Inc.)	700 MW wind turbine project.	Queen Charlotte Islands (Offshore)	1,600	50
South Meager Geothermal Project (Western Geopower Corp.)	New geothermal power generation plant with transmission line.	55 km Northwest of Pemberton	276	45
Toba Inlet Montrose Creek Project (Plutonic Power Corporation)	The proposal consists of: a transmission line, the East Toba River hydroelectric project and a Montrose Creek hydroelectric project.	100 km North of Powell River	250	N/A
Upper Harrison Water Power Project (Cloudworks Energy Inc.)	The project includes four interconnected river hydroelectric projects.	60 km Northwest of Harrison Hot Springs	N/A	N/A
Vancouver Island Transmission Reinforcement Project (British Columbia Transmission Corporation)	Proposal to replace and upgrade existing 138 kV facilities connecting southern Vancouver Island to the Lower Mainland.	Delta to Duncan	210	N/A
Waneta Hydro-electric Expansion (2003) (Columbia Power Corporation)	Proposed new 380 MW hydro-electric generation station on the right bank of the Pend d'Oreille River.	17 km South of Trail	400	5

Project (proponent)	Description of Project	Location	Investment ($million)	Jobs (operating)
Mining				
Bear River Gravel Project (Beacon Ventures Inc.)	Gravel extraction from the Lower Bear River with a facility to alleviate the increasing threat of flooding to the District of Stewart.	Lower Bear River	10	40
Brule Mine Project (Western Canadian Coal)	Open pit coal mine, waste rock dumps, crushing facilities and coarse wash plant.	57 km South of Chetwynd	50	N/A
Cogburn Magnesium (North Pacific Alloys Ltd.)	New quarry and magnesium facility.	Hope	800	N/A
Galore Creek Gold/ Silver/Copper Mine (SpectrumGold Inc.)	Copper and gold project with a production capacity between 30,000 and 60,000 tonnes per day. Expected mine life of 25 years.	Northwest British Columbia 75 km Northeast of Eskay Creek Mine	650	400
Hills Bar Aggregate Quarrying (Qualark Resources Inc.)	New aggregate quarry. Anticipated timing for submitting application is uncertain.	Hills Bar, near Yale	8	25
Kemess North Copper Gold (Northgate Minerals Corporation)	Open pit copper-gold mine with a production of 75,000 tonnes.	250 km Northeast of Smithers	193	528
Morrison Copper Gold (Pacific Booker Minerals Inc.)	Copper and gold project with an estimated production of up to 9,000,000 tonnes per year.	65 km Northeast of Smithers	200	250
Mount Klappan Coal Project (Fortune Coal Limited)	Proposed open pit mine to produce clean coal.	160 km Northeast of Stewart	100	400
Sustut Copper Project (Northgate Minerals Corporation)	Open pit copper mine with a proposed 10 km haul road.	193 km NE of Smithers	32	50

Project (proponent)	Description of Project	Location	Investment ($million)	Jobs (operating)
Transportation				
Container Terminal 2 (Vancouver Port Authority)	New container port.	Lower Mainland — Roberts Bank	N/A	N/A
South Fraser Perimeter Road Project (Ministry of Transportation)	Construction of a four-lane highway along the south side of the Fraser River through Surrey and Delta.	Lower Mainland	900	N/A
Water Management				
Terrace Green Street Well Project (Municipality of Terrace)	New municipal groundwater supply.	Terrace	N/A	N/A

Appendix E: Amendments to Projects from April 1, 2004 – March 31, 2005

The table below outlines the amendments that were made to the EA Project Approval Certificates during the fiscal year 2004/05.

Project (proponent)	Location	Description	Date
Caribou Gas Processing Plant (Keyspan Energy Canada Co.)	160 km Northwest of Fort St. John	Amendment to reflect transfer in name to Keyspan Energy Canada Company.	July 30, 2004
Forrest Kerr Hydroelectric Project (Coast Mountain Hydro Corporation)	100 km NW of Stewart on the Iskut river	Amended the project description to have a single-pole overhead transmission line between the project site and Highway 37 instead of a buried transmission line.	August 5, 2004
WGSI LNG Storage Project (Duke Energy)	Between Squamish and Gibsons	Amended to extend the Certificate under different ownership, Duke Energy, for five years until April 9, 2009.	April 8, 2004
Slocan-LP OSB Project (Canfor-LP OSB Limited Partnership)	Fort St. John	Amendment #1 to reflect minor project location changes including the creation of a new air monitoring station. Amendment #2 to reflect a change in the independent environmental monitor. Amendment #3 to reflect a transfer in proponent name to Canfor-LP OSB limited partnership.	September 30, 2004 February 1, 2005 March 2, 2005
Laredo Limestone Project — Extension Project (North Pacific Stone Ltd.)	Aristazabal is 560 km Northwest of Vancouver	Certificate extended for 3 years until April 28, 2007. Certificate amended to include a requirement for consultation with MWLAP's Smithers Office prior to seeking government approvals.	May 20, 2004